CLAIMS

1.   Apparatus for protecting electronically published documents with a local computer system (14) which can be connected locally by way of a data transmission medium (10), particularly a data transmission network, to an external data source (12) and which is adapted to call up, execute, and/or output published documents, characterized in that the local computer system (14) comprises local data storage means (18) which is adapted for the storage of data of the electronically published document in a form which is not usable for a user, wherein the local computer system (14) further comprises means (24) for receiving and processing additional protected data provided by the external data source (12) by way of the data transmission means (10), as well as a linking means (26) which is adapted to link a storage content of the local data storage means (18) with the additional protected data and to produce the electronically published document therefrom in a form usable, meaningful and/or suitable for sensory perception by the user, and wherein the local computer system comprises output means (20) selected in accordance with the type of the document to be electronically published, adapted to call up, execute and/or output the document in the form usable, meaningful and/or suitable for sensory perception by the user.

2.   Apparatus as set forth in claim 1 characterised in that the data storage means (18) is adapted to store an electronically published document in a non-reconstructed, in particular a non-linear manner, wherein the non-reconstructed document can be converted into a reconstructed linear document which is usable by the user by the action of the linking means (26), utilising the additional protected data.

3.   Apparatus as set forth in claim 2, characterized in that the linking means is adapted such that structural elements of an electronically published document are modified by operational

instructions derived from the additional protected data in order to effect the conversion to the reconstructed document.

4. Apparatus as set forth in ~~one of claims 1 to 3~~ Claim 1 characterised in that the local data storage means is a magnetic and/or optical mass store (18) in which volume data of the electronically published document are stored in a plurality of storage locations which are not interrelated, and wherein the additional protected data denote an interconnection and/or a sequence of the storage locations.

5. Apparatus as set forth in ~~one of claims 1 to 3~~ Claim 1 characterised in that the local data storage means is a magnetic and/or optical mass store (18), wherein volume data of the electronically published document which is stored therein have data gaps and the data gaps can be directly closed by the additional protected data, or wherein the additional protected data include storage location identifications which refer to separate storage locations of the local data storage means (18), in which gap data are stored in a manner corresponding to the data gaps.

6. Apparatus as set forth in ~~one of claims 1 through 5~~ Claim 1 characterised by an encoding means which is embodied by means of a first module (32) of the external data source and a second module (24) of the local computer system and which is adapted for the protected transmission of the additional protected data from the external data source (12) to the local computer system (14).

7. Apparatus as set forth in one of claims 1 ~~through 6~~ characterised by an identification and/or billing module (36) which is adapted to identify a user of the local computer system and to acquire corresponding use and/or billing data.

8. Apparatus as set forth in one of claims 1 ~~through 7~~ characterised by a control module (28) which is provided in the local computer system (14) and which is provided for dialogue and operational control of the data exchange with the external data source (12) and/or an operating unit (22) which is provided to detect user commands and to influence operation of the local computer system as a reaction to the user commands.

9. A method of protected representation of electronically published documents, characterised by the following steps:

- calling up document data from a local data storage means (18) which is connected to a local computer system (14) and which stores the document data in a form which is not usable by a user,

- receiving (S12) additional protected data of an external data source connected to the local computer system (14) by way of a data transmission medium (10), particularly a data transmission network,

- linking (S14) the additional protected data to a content of the local data storage means (18) to produce document data in a form usable, meaningful and/or suitable for sensory perception by the user, and

- calling up, executing and/or outputting the document data in said form, usable, meaningful and/or suitable for sensory perception by the user, by means of output means selected in accordance with the type of the document to be published electronically.

10. A method as set forth in claim 9 wherein the step of linking comprises the following steps:

- deriving operational instructions from said additional protected data

- modifying structural elements of an electronically published document with the operational instructions, thereby providing a re-constructed document in the form usable, meaningful and/or suitable for sensory perception by the user.

11. A method as set forth in claim 9 ~~or 10~~ characterised in that storage of local document data is effected in a sequence which, without linking to the additional protected data, does not permit representation of the document data in the form usable, meaningful and/or suitable for sensory perception.

12. A method as set forth in claims 9 ~~or 10~~ characterised in that storage of the local document data with gaps occurs in such a way that the gaps are closed only by linking to the additional data.

13. A method as set forth in one of claims 9 ~~through 12~~ characterised by the following steps:

- identifying the user in the external data source (12), and

- exchanging user and/or billing data (S10) in respect of the user as a reaction to identification prior to reception of the additional protected data.

14. A method as set forth in one of claims 9 ~~through 13~~ characterised in that the step of receiving the additional protected data includes the following steps:

- encoding of the additional protected data by the data source (12),

- transmitting the encoded additional protected data by way of the data transmission network (10), and

- decoding the encoded additional protected data by the local computer system (14).

15. A method as set forth in claim 14 characterised by the following step:

- agreeing a code (S11) between the external data source (12) and the local computer system (14) prior to the encoding step.

16. - A method as set forth in one of claims 9 ~~through 15~~ characterised by successively calling up and representing a plurality of document units, wherein a set of the additional protected data is received for each of the document units.

17. A method as set forth in one of claims 9 ~~through 16~~ characterised in that the reception of the additional protected data is dependent on a single and/or temporary access authorisation established by agreement between the local computer system (14) and the external data source (12).

18. A method as set forth in one of claims 9 ~~through 17~~ characterised in that the data which are usable by the user include a text, produced in a language, and having a plurality of words, the words are provided in an arrangement which forms a meaning for the user, and at least one of the words is arranged by the effect of the additional data at a position in the text which permits clear identification and association of the text with the user.